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DATA ON ALBANIAN CONSUMER GOODS AND COOPERATIVES, JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1953

Comment: The following information on Albanian sales and consumer cooperatives and consumer goods, which appeared in issues of the Tirana daily newspapers, Zeri i Popullit and Bashkimi, 8 June-19 September 1953, indicates an increase in such consumer goods as beer, processed food, olive oil, tobacco, shoes and leather, textiles, tools, and miscellaneous articles. Consumer cooperatives are criticized for not stocking the goods needed by the peasants.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.7

I. FOOD AND LIQUOR

Beer

Workers at the Korce State Brewery (NISH Birre Korce) intend to fulfill the 1953 plan by 21 December. The plan for the first 6 months of 1953 was fulfilled 101.77 percent by 11 June, while employing 93.13 percent of the plant's manpower and reducing production costs 5.1 percent.(1) The July plan was fulfilled 107 percent by 29 July.(2) Application of the Levchenko-Mukhanov method saved the state 153,211 leks during the first 5 months of 1953. Various Stakhanovites fulfilled their quotas 104.76-129.93 percent during the same period.(1) The daily norm was 20 percent greater, the output 9 percent larger than in June. Exploitation of machinery showed a gain of 26.55 percent through introduction of new methods.(2)

To ensure proper use and maintenance of its machinery, the brewery employs every form of political work and agitation. Meetings are frequently held in the various units to analyze successes and defects and discuss the problem of keeping the machines in good repair. The brewery's agitator collective includes this problem in its political and propagandist work. The workers themselves come 15 minutes earlier in the morning to clean and inspect machines before use.

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A committee of technical experts inspects every unit, suggests changes or replacement of worn parts, and reports any misuse of machinery to the administration. For example, the committee found that two workers in the fermentation unit had allowed the pipes to rust. Carelessness on the part of another worker in the bottling unit was slowing production. The committee reported these instances to the administration, which sent agitators to talk to the men. The defects were immediately remedied.

The brewery administration also draws up master plans for full exploitation of the machines, so that one machine will not be overloaded while another stands idle. As a result, the first quarterly plan of 1953 was fulfilled 127 percent, the second quarterly plan 122.93 percent, and the July plan 118 percent, while costs were reduced 7.46 percent.(3)

Canned Fish and Fruit

Construction work will begin on 1 August 1953 on a fish and fruit canner in Vlore. The factory will occupy an area of 4.5 hectares and will can more than 2,000 tons of fish and fruit per year. It will be located beyond the rice-husking factory close to the wharf. The new factory will have four sections: one for canning fish, one for preserving fruit, one for processing oil, and one for making crates and packing. There will also be an administration building, repair shops, fire department, and pump station. The State Perlat Rexhepi Construction Enterprise will be in charge of construction.(4)

Fruit Products and Raki

The Consumer Cooperatives Union does not fully exploit the fruit reserves of Albania because it places collection centers and factories on trade routes rather than in fruit-growing areas. For example, by not building a jam factory at Zergon, the Peshkopi Consumer Cooperative let quantities of apples and quinces spoil. For the same reason, quantities of apples, cherries, quinces, and figs went to waste in Gramsh and Puke.

Albania is rich in wild fruit trees, including cherry, pear, and apple trees, as well as in blackberries, cornel cherries, and bearberries, from which valuable products can be made. But the consumer cooperatives do not collect them. They are content to take only what the peasants deliver, although the Central Collective Directorate and the Central Consumer Cooperative Union instructed them in 1952 to exploit fruit-growing areas more fully. In some rreths, such as Shkoder, Durres, Korce, and Kolonje, excellent results have been obtained in making raki and marmalade, where the consumer cooperatives located factories with packing installations in fruit-growing areas. Berat and Elbasan rreths, however, do nothing to make it profitable for the peasant to increase production and collection.(5)

The Corovode Jam Factory in Shkrapar Rreth will overfulfill the 1953 plan. The raki factory will double its production. To provide raw materials, a contract for 170,000 kilograms of grain and other ingredients was made with the peasants.(6)

The Gjinokaster Consumers Cooperative produced 35,000 kilograms of apple and pear marmalade. It also fulfilled the July barter plan 112 percent for foodstuffs such as honey, butter, and cheese.(7)

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Macaroni

The Durres Macaroni Factory (fabrike se makaronave ne Durres) fulfilled the plan for the first 6 months of 1953 about 117 percent. This success is attributed, in part, to the arrival of two new machines from the USSR and to wide application of Soviet methods, saving the state 35,783.50 leks and reducing costs 3.5 percent.(8) The factory also fulfilled the July plan 113 percent and saved thousands of leks. The machine section fulfilled 37.54 percent of the August plan in 10 days.(9) During the 6-month period, 11 more workers, mostly women, became Stakhanovites. About 85 percent of all the factory workers are women.(8)

II. OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION

Many olive oil factories are beginning to overhaul their machinery in expectation of a large olive crop. Overhaul is in progress in the olive oil and soap enterprises in Rrogozhine, Sarande, and Vlore. Workers from the industrial workshops of Durres are overhauling the machinery and two motors for the Elbasan Olive Oil Factory. The Enver Works will overhaul hydraulic pumps, gear, and presses for various other factories.

Greater care in collecting and storing olives will be taken in the 1953 season than in 1952.(6)

The Sarande Olive Oil Factory completed overhauling its machinery for the coming season. The Himare Olive Oil Factory not only finished overhauling its machines but made a modification in construction work by using local stone instead of imported granite. This modification saved the enterprise 40,000 leks. The Mitro Xhanis Oil Factory in Sasaj and the Delvine Oil Factory are ready for large olive deliveries.(9)

The Tirana Oil-Alcohol Enterprise (NISH Vaj-Liqerna) is finishing the overhaul of its machinery and electric power plant. It has ordered spare parts, such as pump valves, from the Enver Works. Two more presses are on order to take care of the large olive crop.(10)

III. TOBACCO

Albanian cigarette factories fulfilled the May cigarette plan 103.33 percent, the kaush /probably an inferior grade of tobacco/ tobacco plan 102.5 percent. Production at the Tela Noga Factory in Durres was outstanding.(11)

The 29 Nentori Cigarette Enterprise (NISH cigareve 29 Nentori) in Shkoder fulfilled the plan for the first 6 months of 1953 on 23 June, 7 days ahead of schedule. The cigarette unit fulfilled its 6-month plan on 22 June. Xhemal Kalaja, a young Stakhanovite, produced 40 kilograms of cigarettes over the daily norm. Haxhire Rexha, another Stakhanovite, produced 3,000 packages over the norm and is working on his August quota. Stakhanovite Vitore Shkreli is working on his 1954 quota.(12) Most of the workers in the packaging unit are women. One of them fills 2,500 packages a day and is working on her 1954 quota. In the cigarette-making unit, one Stakhanovite produced 25 kilograms of cigarettes more than the daily norm during the first quarter of 1953 and is now making 40 kilograms more than the daily norm.(13)

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The administration of this factory puts up honor rolls with the names of outstanding workers, such as the above-mentioned Haxhire Rexha, and about 17 other Stakhanovites who were working on their 1954-1955 quotas in August 1953.(14) One Stakhanovite filled 2,800 cigarette boxes over her daily norm. The machine operators produced 44 kilograms of cigarettes over the planned amount. Various units have fulfilled the July quota 107.77 percent. July savings by employing Soviet methods amounted to 39,661 leks.

The 9 Nentori workers are among the best in Shkoder.(15)

The workers of the Telat Noga Cigarette Enterprise in Durres exceeded the April plan 6.59 percent, the total May plan 3.48 percent. The May cigarette plan was fulfilled 104.25 percent and the Kaush tobacco plan 100.18 percent. The 5-month plan was exceeded 3 percent. Costs were reduced 6.08 percent during May. The sorting section sorted about 300 kilograms of tobacco more than the planned amount. It fulfilled its daily norm 103 percent. The daily norm for cigarette packers is 200 more packages than the 1952 norm.

The Telat Noga administration will soon install an automatic conveyor to transport cigarettes from the producing unit to the packing unit, thus reducing the time of transportation by one third.(16)

The Vasil Shanto Tobacco Curing Factory (Uzina e fermentimit te duhanit Vasil Shanto) in Shkoder is overhauling its machinery to prepare for the thousands of pounds of tobacco promised by the tobacco growers. This factory expects to triple its 1952 production. The factory pledged to cure 220,000 kilograms of tobacco more than it did in 1952.

The first deliveries to the curing factory arrived recently from Gruemire, Mes, and Koplik. Two growers from Dobray and Koplik delivered 500 kilograms of tobacco each, while another grower from Gruemire delivered 250 kilograms. Within 2 days, 14 peasants delivered 6,000 kilograms of tobacco.(17)

IV. SHOES, LEATHER, AND TANNING

Shoes

The Korce Shoe Cooperative is saving 6 meters of kidskin a month. The cutting unit uses an aluminum measure in cutting uppers to save time and material. Another unit straightens used nails for reuse. From the materials saved by various units, hundreds of pairs of children's sandals and shoes have been made. Costs were reduced 5.65 percent by using modern methods.(18)

The Tirana Shoe Factory (Fabrike se kepucëve) produced 8,214 pairs of shoes and sandals during the first 6 months of 1953, and by 4 July the assembly unit assembled 200 pairs of shoes and sandals more than planned.(19) The factory fulfilled its July plan 105 percent. The plan for the first 6 months of 1953 was fulfilled 107.02 percent. The output was 12 percent higher than in the same period of 1952.(20)

The number of workers on the quota system during the first half year rose from 78 to 96 percent. Seventeen workers doubled their norms.(19) There are 59 Stakhanovites in the factory. Forty percent of all workers are women. The unit for sewing uppers is composed entirely of women, 12 of them Stakhanovites. This unit completed the July quota 2 days ahead of schedule. The unit for cutting uppers completed its quota 3 days ahead of schedule. A Stakhanovite in the assembly unit developed a method of assembling which produced ten more pairs of shoes than previously produced in the same time.(20)

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Leather

The Gjinokaster Leather Works (Fabrike se lekurave) fulfilled the July plan satisfactorily. The assortment plan was fulfilled 101.99 percent. All workers overfulfilled their norms.(21) The workers are mobilized to complete the August quota 8 days ahead of schedule. Finishing Unit No 2 is exceeding its daily quota 30 percent. Up to 12 August, the collectives saved the Leather Works 13,086 leks.(22) The workers take good care of the machinery. Every week the machines are inspected and cleaned. Many workers exceed the exploitation coefficient.(6)

Tanning Works

Construction work on the Tannin Extract Factory (Fabrike se ekstrattaninit) in Vlore was 80 percent finished on 14 August. The steam-electric power plant is 70 percent finished with all the large machinery in place. The main production room is 90 percent ready with 60 percent of its machinery installed.(22)

V. TEXTILES

The finishing unit of the Knitted Goods Factory (Fabrike se trikotazhit) in Korce completed its July quota on 29 July, including underwear, stockings, and towels. July production was 5 percent higher than the June figure. The unit is also producing fine underwear and children's petticoats. The finishing unit is producing hundreds of types of flannel, toweling, and other articles. In the knitting unit, where 85 of the workers are Stakhanovites, many are now working on their November and December quotas. This unit has already produced 1,550 more towels than planned. All units are using the Soviet method of shortening the production cycle.(23)

The Stalin Textile Combine in Tirana is making about 20 types of cloth and some 80 patterns of printed cloth.(24)

VI. TOOLS AND MACHINERY

The Albanian Artisans Union includes more than 150 cooperatives. In the first 6 months of 1953, artisan production was 30.4 percent greater than in the same period in 1952. The volume of machine repair increased 111 percent and of machine maintenance 162 percent.

Among the artisans union products are corn seeding and shucking machines and cultivators.(25)

One of the chief duties of artisans cooperatives is to produce and repair agricultural tools. The Gjinokaster Artisans Cooperative fulfilled the first 6 months' production plan of 1953 about 120 percent, the repair plan 107 percent, and the maintenance plan 105 percent. Some types of especially needed goods, such as plowshares, hoes, scythes, horseshoes, and nails are produced in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the peasants.

To prevent the peasant from losing time by going to the nearest town for his tools, the union organized units of ironworkers and blacksmiths to circulate among the villages. For example, during the harvest season, ironworkers and blacksmiths were sent to villages in Libohove, Dropull te Poshtem, and Dropull te Siperm lokaliteta. In addition, permanent units, including smiths, shoemakers, and carpenters were established in Bularat, Polican, Vrisare, and Sofratike villages. Others, including a repair shop will be establishing in Ure and Kardhiq. Up to now, about 26 units are in operation.

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During the first 6 months of 1953, the production unit of the Gjinokaster Cooperative made use of scraps of metal and wood to make milk cans, churns, sieves, kettles, boxes, and water casks. These articles are sold or bartered in Tepelene and Permet rreths. A number of rugs and shoes were made from remnants. The unit also made nine new articles, such as dram weights, pruning shears and knives, plowshares for breaking up clods, wooden rakes, door locks, and carding combs. Later, it expects to produce spoons, shoemakers needles, scissors, and various types of churns.

The quality of goods is improving. In 1952, the production unit was more interested in quantity than in quality, but, at the beginning of 1953 training courses were given by technicians, who also inspected the quality of each article produced. Ten courses in early 1953 were attended by 73 workers. Five other qualification courses trained 35 expert workers, including tailors and smiths. Soviet methods are used by 304 workers.

The Gjinokaster Artisans Cooperative promises to fulfill the 1953 plan by 29 November.(26)

The Gjinokaster Ironworkers Cooperative fulfilled the 1953 plan 144 percent. The use of modern methods saved the state 37,980 leks and reduced costs 7.6 percent below 1952 costs. The collective produced hundreds of sickles and other agricultural tools.(27)

One of the main problems of the Ylli I Kuq Metalworkers Cooperative in Korce Gark is to replace the primitive tools of the peasants with efficient tools. During the spring sowing, among other tools, the cooperative produced 100 cultivators for hoeing sugar beet fields, 500 hoes, 1,000 tools for check-row planting, 500 tools for gathering sugar beets, and 1,600 other tools, including sickles and pitchforks.(28)

The Feshkopi Rreth Artisans Cooperative now makes 14 types of tools for peasants, including plowshares and plows, picks, axes, and iron pitchforks. Recently, they began to make sickles. A committee of artisans and consumer cooperative workers decide upon the types needed. Production in the first 6 months of 1953 was 120 percent higher than that in the same period in 1952.(29) The cooperative also fulfilled its August production plan 104.4 percent. It met the peasants' requirements for tools of good quality. The cooperative's sandal unit (sektori i opingareve) fulfilled its August quota 124 percent.(30)

The Tirana Artisans Cooperative overfulfilled the plan for the first 6 months of 1953. During this period it produced 23 new articles, including barber shears, pruning shears, and shoemakers tools. Altogether, the cooperative produces 400 articles. It now has two branch shops in Tirana and one in Ndroq to repair agricultural tools. During the same period workers made 15 suggestions, 11 of which were approved, saving the state 306,880 leks. One machine for sieving dirt saved 73,920 leks. Whereas in 1952 only about 82 percent of the workers were under the norm system, all workers are now using norms.

The Partizani Ironworkers Cooperative of Tirana manufactured about 10,000 agricultural tools during the first 6 months of 1953.(19)

All units of the Partizani Artisans Cooperative are working to produce plows and agricultural tools. In the large workshop, the ironworkers are producing various types of metal pipes, plows, shovels, picks, and other tools.(21)

The Enver Works in Tirana fulfilled the first 6 months' plan of 1953 over 100 percent 15 days ahead of schedule and produced more tools than in the same period in 1952.(31) The July plan was fulfilled 100.1 percent.(3) Another success was the plentiful production of tools and household articles such as irons, funnels, hammers, shovels, and picks.(31) In addition the Enver Works

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made many parts for the woolen goods factory. On 2 July, it began making tools to dig up sugar beets and, later, pumps for oil factories. The lathe operators and cylinder-jacket unit are doing excellent work. In July, many lathe operators overfulfilled their quotas.(3) The foundry unit considerably exceeded its quota. Some Stakhanovites made seven piston molds in one form, whereas, previously a special form was used for each mold.(19)

VII. MISCELLANEOUS CONSUMER GOODS

Local industries in Albania fulfilled the first 6 months' plan of 1953 more than 121 percent. Production rose 54.5 percent in the same period. The printing industry fulfilled the 6-month plan 181 percent and the food industry 131 percent, while the amount of lumber produced by the sawmills equalled the total figure for 1952.

The Fier Local Industrial Enterprise for Various Products (NIL prodhime te ndryshme) and the Peshkopi Sawmill are being enlarged. Factories for processing fruit and vegetables in Berat, Durrës, Elbasan, Korce, Lushnje, Shkoder, and Tirana, and a factory for building /automobile/ bodies are being enlarged or erected. Sawmills under construction in Puke and Tropoje will greatly increase the lumber supply.(21)

The Local Industrial Enterprise for Various Products in Tirana fulfilled the first 6 months' plan of 1953 over 140 percent (32) and its 9-month plan 101.12 percent by the end of July. Its output from January through July reached 72.36 percent of the 1953 plan. The carpentry shop fulfilled the July plan 113 percent.(6) Many workers exceeded their norms 25 percent. They intend to complete the 1953 plan by 8 November.

The enterprise produces many articles, including emery paper for polishing iron, sacks for cotton, earth colors, and glue.(32) It recently began to make children's toys and guitar strings, and will soon start manufacturing copper sulfate and sulfurated oil.(6)

The metal industry workers in Albania fulfilled the first 6 months' plan of 1953 about 104 percent. They are supplying various branches of the national economy with tools and spare parts. For example, they produced 6,000 parts for the Tirana Woolen Goods Factory, office supplies, and other consumer goods. By the end of the Five-Year Plan the industry is expected to be 335 percent larger than in 1950.

The Durrës Workshops have units working on electric motors and electrical supplies made of ebonite. They produce many articles previously imported, such as measuring instruments, distributors, and spare parts for the Stalin Textile Combine and for oxygen apparatus. They also make many agricultural tools.(210)

Recently, a new consumer cooperative opened in the village of Kurdari, Burrel Rreth. It will supply the villages of Kurdari, Suc, Kap, Kurqele, and Patin with industrial goods and foodstuffs. Early in August, the cooperative had large stockpiles, including 25,000 kilograms of wheat, 17,000 kilograms of fruit, 500 kilograms of butter, and 1,000 kilograms of corn.(33)

The Gjinokaster Qark Consumer Cooperatives sold a large amount of industrial and agricultural goods to peasants in July. The sales included 50 cubic meters of board and 2,600 kilograms of cement. The Libohove Consumer Cooperative exceeded its barter plan 38 percent in the first half of July. Among the best cooperatives in Gjinokaster Qark are those of Dropull i Postem, Dropull i Siperm, and Kardhiq.(26)

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The Vrisere Consumer Cooperative, Gjinoaster Qark, contracted with peasants to buy on the free market 1,200 kilograms of honey and collected 3,800 kilograms. It also collected 5,300 kilograms of milk. It contracted for 800 hides, but bought 1,100 hides. In addition it collected 10,300 kilograms of vegetables.(34)

The Kruje Rreth consumer cooperatives fulfilled the first 6 months' plan of 1953 for reciprocal trade 102.48 percent and for free trade 140 percent. The best cooperative was that of Maminas, which fulfilled the reciprocal trade plan 111 percent. It organized a mobile cooperative to deliver the goods peasants required.(26)

The industrial trade enterprises and artisans cooperatives in Korce are increasing their norms. Many will overfulfill their semiannual quotas.

The Korce Brewery exceeded the June plan 12.3 percent and the 6-month plan 22.95 percent. The Hammer and Sickle Knitted Goods Enterprise (NISH Trikotazhi Draper e Cekan) fulfilled the 6-month plan 6 days ahead of schedule, and produced thousands of towels, stockings, and other articles more than planned. The Korce Leather Works exceeded the 6-month plan 7.38 percent and the June plan 18.59 percent. The Korce Municipal Consumer Cooperative fulfilled the 6-month production plan 103.22 percent by 31 May and the goods turnover plan 100.2 percent by 10 June.(12)

Until 1947, peasants living in Pustec Lokalitet, Korce Qark, had to walk 7 or 8 miles to reach the city and make needed purchases, such as salt and oil. But in 1947, a consumer cooperative opened at Pustec. At first it was too badly organized to draw customers. Only 150 persons, or half the population of the lokalitet, became members. The local authorities and the basic party organizations took action, however, and as a result, the number of members rose to 97 percent of the population. The peasants are now able to satisfy their needs for industrial goods and agricultural tools, as well as for cloth, oil, and salt.

In the first 6 months of 1953 the peasants acquired from the cooperative about 200 plows, 200 hoes, 150 pitchforks, 80 sickles, and 100 scythes. Because the cooperative maintained a regular flow of supplies, it was able to fulfill the January-June goods turnover plan 126 percent. The cooperative also stocks construction goods, such as lumber, bricks, and lime. Thus, the peasants have been able to build 30 houses.

On the other hand, since Pustec Lokalitet is rich in pasture land, the peasants can sell all types of animal products to this cooperative. In this manner they were able to fulfill the semiannual collection plan 306 percent. Many peasants engage in reciprocal trade with the cooperative or sell their produce to it for cash. For example, Gjerman Sotiri of Gollomboc delivered produce valued at 300,000 leks to the cooperative from his 60 dynyms [a dynym is one-fourth of an acre] and animal produce.

Pustec Consumer Cooperative is also very successful in making contracts with the peasants. Except for three villages, the over-all contract plan is 110 percent fulfilled. Peasants of Gollomboc, Shulin, Goric e Vogel, and Bezmishte have outstanding records for contracts.(26)

In general, consumer cooperatives are supplying villages with more goods. For example, the Maminas Consumer Cooperative, Korce Qark, fulfilled the first 6 months' plan of 1953 for barter 170 percent, for free market sales 220 percent, for goods turnover 115 percent, and for collection of surplus crops 102

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percent. The Pustec Consumer Cooperative set a good example. But many cooperatives do not sufficiently consult the peasants' needs, especially for industrial and handicraft goods. For example, in Elbasan, Kukes, and Lushnje little attention is paid to the demand for agricultural tools, construction materials, crockery, and kitchen ware.

Planning is also poor. In July 1953, for instance, Tirana cooperatives had too much stock on hand, whereas those in Myzeqe, Lushnje, and Fier had too little. Cooperative shops in Progonat, Tepelene Rreth, tried to sell flannel and woolen goods, which the peasants already had, but could not offer the agricultural tools they wanted.(35) The Gostime Cooperative, Elbasan Qark, tried to sell the peasants totally unsuitable types of plows and sickles, while the Maminas Cooperative attempted to sell poorly made trousers.(11) Peasants often have surplus produce to barter but can find nothing they wish in exchange.(35)

Cooperatives ought to consult the consumer in each zone and obtain a good quality of wares to meet the demand. But, up to the present, many cooperatives, including those of Sarande and Peshkopi rreths, have not made an effort to do so. Before the spring planting, for example, consumer cooperative shops should secure the necessary plows and other tools; before the harvest, they should procure a stock of scythes and other necessary tools. They should have on hand pails, cans, and churns for the dairies. Good examples were set by the Postribe Consumer Cooperative, Shkoder Qark, and the Korce Qark cooperatives, which consulted the peasants beforehand and kept the wanted goods in stock. Consumer cooperatives should also keep in touch with handicraft cooperatives and local industries and supply their needs. This has not always been done in Shkoder, Kukes, Durres, and Lushnje rreths.(11)

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